

Lyle and Vee Taylor Oral History
Part 3: March 2, 2010

Elaine: Is there anything else you would like to mention about your time in the service? When were you discharged?

Vee: March 1953.

Lyle: When we were there guarding the Hampford Atomic Plant we were also training other soldiers to be qualified to go over seas. They had lots of privates but not very many experienced people. Us young officers would get more responsibilities than we were experienced for, but there wasn't no one else. I remember that we would take about six bus loads, like a Trailway bus, from Camp Hampford. We'd go over to Fort Lewis, near Seattle Washington. We had to go over a mountain, Snoqualmie Pass, and into Seattle. There we would train these guys to get them qualified, these young privates. Some of them were National Guard units that had been activated. They had marksmanship where they would fire on the range at targets. They had to do so good or else they'd have to come back the next day and go through it again until they qualified. They had rows of empty buildings and you'd have to go through those buildings and search out the enemy. They had dummy Koreans that would pop up and act like they were going to throw a hand grenade. If you didn't shoot them or bayonet them before they did, why then you was a casualty and you'd have to go to the side. When you got clear through the end of the thing, if you had more casualties than what you had live guys then you had to come back and do it again the next day. There was one building that the doors was all barricaded and so you had to crawl through a window and just about the time you'd get your leg over the window seal the referees that were along the side would pull a button and a Japanese would swing down on a rope right towards the window and if you didn't bayonet him or shoot him before he shot you, why then you was a casualty. There was that kind of things all the way through it. This was called combat in cities.

When we'd get through that, then they had what they called a jungle warfare kind of like over there in Korea. You'd go down through the trees and there would be fallen trees. You'd have to climb over logs and stuff. There were dummies that would jump up and then there were snipers up in the big trees and stuff. If you didn't see them and shoot them before they shot you, then you were a casualty.

I remember we got clear down to the end of it. There was a big mound of dirt there kind of like a little small mountain. We all had grenades on our belt. All you had to do is pull a little pin and then you had about two seconds to throw them and then they'd explode. If you pulled that pin and didn't throw it pretty soon, why then it would explode and probably kill you and some of your comrades. We would get to the base of that hill and then you'd fix your bayonets on and charge up over that hill, but before you'd charge everybody would throw a hand grenade up over that hill. Then the referees would say clear your bolts. You would open your bolt so there would be no chance of you shooting when you got up over there. This one time we just

verily got up over the top and ‘bang’ somebody’s rifle went off. We were looking around to see if anybody got shot. The referee said, “Lieutenant Taylor, get that guys name, rank, and serial number.” I went over there and asked them who was that, that shot. It turned out to be a brand new second lieutenant from West Point. They’re supposed to be the best trained that there are. Anyway, he hadn’t cleared the round out of his chamber. When he went up there, he pulled the trigger and the rifle went off.

The last part we had to do was, we had to crawl under a barbed wire entanglement with machine guns shooting about that high [one foot] over our heads. You would be in pairs. One of you would get up there to the barbed wire and you’d stick your rifle up and kind of prop it up and your buddy would crawl under. Then when he got on the other side he’d hold it up. You had to be pretty flat on the ground or else you’d get shot. We had to do it in the daytime and we done it successful in the daytime and then we had to come back and do it after dark.

I always tried to treat the soldiers like I’d like to be treated. We had an old master sergeant, he was always telling me, “Now don’t be so good to them.” He says, “Have you got a dog back on your ranch?” I say, “Yeah.” He says, “Do you ever kick him or whip him.” I said “Yeah, when he don’t mind.” He says, “Well if you’d treat these soldiers just like your dog, you’d be a lot better off.”

We got through with all these other exercises and I decided to let these guys have about, it was about three or four hours before it got dark and we had to go under that barbed wire entanglement. I gave them all three hours off and they all went into town and most of them headed straight to the liquor store or beer parlor. When they came back they were drunk and throwing there hats in the air and hollering and everything. We was afraid if they went through that with those machine guns shooting right over there head and as intoxicated as they were that some of them would raise up and get shot. We was in a pickle either way. If we had to take them back and not have them qualified or else we had to have them crawl under that barbed wire entanglement. It was about the length of a football field. We had to crawl all the way under there. They was asking me, “Well, now what you gonna do?” I said, “Well give me just a few minutes.” I was looking for a place like the Sacred Grove or somewhere I could go and pray for a few minutes. There was a vacant building there so I went over there and kneeled down and prayed for help. About the time I said ‘Amen’ it started to rain. It was just pouring like buckets. When I got back over there, why everybody was soaking wet and that pretty well sobered everybody up and so we went ahead and crawled under the wire. The mud was about four inches deep. If you ever saw some muddy soldiers, when we got through crawling through there on our bellies, why that was it.

I know my Heavenly Father answered my prayers. We was able to get through that and not have anybody get shot. When you was going through there at night, every fifth round that they shot in this machine gun was a tracer. You’d see that red streak going right over your head. When you’d see that it would really make you get close to the ground.

Elaine: After you left the service did you move back to live on the ranch in Deep Creek and raise your family?

Lyle: We had two little boys by then.

Vee: Clayton would have been one and Lamoyne would have been two. Clayton was born on the seventh of March in 1952. Lamoyne had been born February 20, 1951. Brent came along December 5, 1953.

March 4, 1953 after Lyle was discharged Clayton was sick coming home. So when we got home we brought him to Vernal to a doctor and he broke out with a rash in that waiting room, because we'd have to wait so long. We were in there for like two hours. It was so warm. They said he had the measles.

Lyle's parents took care of our two boys while we went back to Salt Lake on March 4, to witness the marriage of my brother Clyde and his wife Ila. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple. Also my brother Gale and his wife Kay were sealed the same day, and Kendal, their oldest child, was sealed to his parents. Gale had served over in the Korean War after he got married. He came home early because he was wounded.

Back in the spring of 1953, Lamoyne was always afraid of loud noises. I think it was because when we were in El Paso, we lived right close by the big airbase. They would fly over really low, those big old aircrafts, just almost deafen you. If he was ever outside playing with the little neighbor girl, we lived in one side of a duplex and she lived in the other side, if they'd be out there playing, they'd both just scream and each run for their own homes because they were so afraid.

Lamoyne carried that home with him back to Deep Creek. If he was ever out playing and the road grader, you could hear it coming long before you could see it, and he would just start screaming and run for the house. It seems like he was afraid of everything. It took him awhile to get adjusted after we got back home.

Clayton was always a happy little baby boy and they had totally different personalities. I think it's because of Lamoyne's experience that he had as a baby when he was born and had club feet. We took Lamoyne to several doctors and had his feet straightened.

Brent arrived in December on the 5th. Once again we went to Lapoint and stayed a few days before he was born because it would blow and drift and you may not be able to get out. We stayed with his folks. Grandpa Chuck was up Deep Creek staying to take care of things. He said we couldn't come home until we had insulation in the attic because the house was too cold and hard to heat. It was getting close to Christmas. I just wanted to go home with my three boys.

Elaine: When you came back to the Uinta Basin did you start ranching? Is that what you did for a living or did you work for somebody?

Lyle: They had the GI Bill of Rights. The government had an educational thing for the guys that had been in the service. They had a Veterans on the Farm Training Program. I went through that and used up my eligibility. You'd go to a class once a week and be taught about agriculture subjects and things that would help you on your farm. The instructor, Ray Udy, would come to your place once or twice a month and see what you were doing and give you suggestions and

ideas and everything. I got some income from that besides our farming. I had my degree in agriculture. When that VA program started to kind of dwindle down, why I took over as an instructor on it, in both Uintah and Duchesne Counties. I did that for two or three years.

Vee: We did go back to milking cows, feeding pigs, and we had bought baby chickens to sell their eggs. That was one of Lamoyne's jobs at about three or four was to go gather the eggs. That's how he learned to count to 100. We must have had all kinds of chickens. Sometimes he would bring in a 100 eggs. He'd have different buckets and so many eggs in each bucket and bring those back to the house. The chicken coop was down in the old log house which was Lyle's first home.

Then, if you milked the cows, you had to separate the milk. We would separate the cream from the skim milk, keep the cream in the ditch to keep it cold. Then we'd take it to Vernal once a week to get groceries and gas money. We had two pigs.

Lyle: We had a small forest permit for our cattle up on the Lake Mountain. We would have a drive up there about June. We'd go up there every week and take care of them and check them for salt and sick ones and everything. About the end of September or the first of October, we'd have a round up and bring them back to our ranch. Some of our neighbors were getting older and wanted to sell their permits so we bought up our neighbors permits and also some of the private ground as they wanted to sell. That's how we kind of built our ranch up over the years.

Lyle: The boys did go to Whiterocks for kindergarten. When they were in kindergarten they went clear up to Farm Creek and went with the Indian kids to school. I remember one time Brent came home. He took his shirt off and put it in the hamper because he had blood all down the front of it. When we found his bloody shirt we ask him, "What happened, what's this blood all over your shirt?" It took a little while to pry it out of him, but anyway he'd got in a fight with a little Indian girl.

Vee: Norma Jean Tom. She grabbed him to kiss him.

Lyle: All we had to do is say, "Brent", if he was naughty or anything you'd say, "Brent, you want us to tell about Norma Jean." Givin' him a lickin'. Boy he'd sure be good then.

Vee: They went in the summer time. Lyle's mother had the boys in the summer time when they went for six weeks up to Whiterocks to go to kindergarten.

Elaine: They just went in the summer for six weeks?

Vee: Yeah, that's all they went.

We had a lot of fun during those full winters up there because we had family home evening everyday, every evening with games and stories. You didn't have to compete with

television. We did have a radio. Our boys learned to work up there and take on little responsibilities which was really good for them even though they were small. I think they had a few bumb lambs too.

Lyle: Tell about how we'd go after Christmas trees and take the whole family.

Vee: Oh dear. He spoiled me the first year we lived in Deep Creek because he brought home a perfect tree. There was never one that he brought that was quite as good as that very first tree. I think a lot of that was memories. I know when we moved into Lapoint, Lyle's aunt said, "It sure looked good to see a Christmas tree lit up in the old house." They called it the old house then. It brought a lot of joy to us down there. Lyle used to take the scouts up there with Elroy Walker, and they'd go up and get Christmas trees and then bring them down to sell them. It was after they'd cut all the easy ones.

We saddled up our horses. We'd been to Sunday school and we came home. They had Sacrament Meetings in the evenings like 6:30 or 7:00. We decided we had time to run up to Lake Creek and get us a Christmas tree. It started snowing before we got up there. We had the three boys. Lamoyne was first grade. We rode in that deep snow. It was up to the horses bellies. They boys got cold. Lyle built them a fire. All this time I was still looking for that perfect Christmas tree. We finally settled on one that was really quite pretty. Then we started cutting for his grandmother Neilson and his parents. I think we come off of there with five or six trees onto one horse. We were doubled up with the others riding. I think Lyle was leading some of those horses down through that deep snow to get back to the truck. It was a hard afternoon. The boys talk about it now and they'll say, "It's a wonder we didn't freeze to death that Sunday afternoon."

The next morning Lyle took the best tree down to the first grade school. I got a call from Mrs. Lee saying that was the prettiest tree that they had ever had in their first grade room. They usually got some old ugly tree and this was so pretty. She wanted to know what we were going to do with it. I said, "Nothing." She said, "Could I have it and take it home?" I told her yes. I went outside and looked and he'd taken my tree and left me another one.

We had to put it in the corner and kind of tie up some branches to make it look nice but at least there was a happy school principal and a first and second grade teacher and about thirty little students. I guess that was worth it that he'd made the mistake. It was dark when he'd left to take it.

Vee: We were still living at home (Deep Creek) when Lamoyne went to first grade. That's when he would have to ride the horse down to Clifta Johnson's, the bus driver.

Lyle: It was about a mile he would have to ride a horse to catch the bus.

Elaine: Did he leave the horse at the Johnson place?

Lyle: Yeah, he'd tie it up there and then he'd ride it home at nights.

Elaine: That's what you said you did when you were going to school.

Lyle: Yeah.

Elaine: So your son turned around and started doing the same as you.

Lyle: I thought it was a good experience so we thought it wouldn't hurt our kids to do the same thing.

Elaine: So then the bus picked them up there and took them into Lapoint?

Vee: Clifta Johnson was a school bus driver at that time. She just started driving school bus.

Elaine: She lived between Deep Creek and Lapoint?

Vee: She lived just about a mile south of us. It was when he was in the second grade that we moved into Lapoint. We had two boys going to school that year.

Lyle: I remember Clayton would ride down there with Lamoyne and bring the horse home. One time they left on the horse and the horse got down the road a little ways and then he balked. He wouldn't go farther. So they came back and then they were afraid that he'd missed the bus so they were crying and sad because they couldn't make the horse go. I jumped on with Lamoyne and said, "Hang on!" I just rode him on a dead run clear down to where the bus was. They were still waiting for us. So he got on the bus and went.

Vee: Why don't you tell about the first car we got when you started working. It was the green and white Ford.

Elaine: Did you buy it from a dealer in Vernal.

Lyle: Yeah, I think so. There was a Ford dealer here and I think we bought it from them.

Vee: We had the new car because Lyle needed a car and I needed a truck at home. We went out for Thanksgiving to Salt Lake to my parents. We went shopping on Friday on the day after Thanksgiving into Sears and they had the escalators. We'd been doing some shopping in the toy department. Lyle was going to take the boys I thought and go somewhere else while I made the purchase. When we met back Clayton had disappeared. We didn't have him. We could hear somebody announcing on the intercom about a little boy. I said to Lyle, "Where's Clayton?" He said, "Well, I thought you had him." I said, "No, I thought you had him." So then we went up the

escalator to the top floor and there he was up there. He was glad to see us and we were glad to see him.

Elaine: How old was he?

Vee: He was only six.

Lyle: They'd go up and you know you could turn around and come right back to that same floor. He got mixed up and he just kept going clear to the top. I know when he saw us, why he come over and he took hold of my finger and he stayed a hold of that finger the rest of the time we was shopping. He had enough of being lost. He just about squeeze my finger off.

Vee: That's was quite an experience. It would scare you worse than ever today. We sure hung on tight to our kids and we couldn't wait to get out to the car and head home. We had a lot of fun times at Deep Creek when we lived there when the boys were little before we started moving out. That's where they learned to work, to take on little responsibilities.

Vee: I think it was in 1958 when Lyle started working for the Department of Agriculture in Vernal. We started moving out to Lapoint because it was too far for Lyle to drive everyday. We had two boys in school.

Elaine: Did they do all there school years in Lapoint?

Vee: We moved over here (Maeser) in 1962. Lamoyne was in 6th grade and Clayton was in 5th grade. All three boys were in grade school when we moved here. Brent was in third grade.

Elaine: You didn't have your daughter yet?

Vee: No, she was born in 1960. We moved in to Lyle's grand-dad's old house. I had to clean it. It had the big eight foot ceilings. We lived there for four different winters before we came over to Vernal. We'd always go home to Deep Creek in the late spring and go back down in the late fall so the boys only had about two , maybe three months of school from Deep Creek. His Granddad was still alive and he would go to Salt Lake and stay at a place. We built this home in 1962 and moved over here.

Elaine: You've lived here in this home a long time.

Vee: Julia was two when we moved over here.

Elaine: When was Julia born?

Vee: She was born July 10, 1960. I was all set for another boy, but when she was a little girl it was very exciting. She was born on a Sunday. I remember Lyle was taking a water turn on our north field. I hadn't been feeling very well for about a month. Those last two weeks I didn't know....she still came early. I sent one of the boys up in the north field to get their dad. I was cutting hair because I thought their hair had to be cut about every two weeks so they would look nice and trim. Lyle's folks were in Salt Lake. His sister Myrna had a new baby boy after two girls. We had phoned them. We had phones right after we moved back out of the service and electricity. They brought that up Deep Creek. Lyle's dad wanted to come home the very day and 'Grandma says no, we'll wait and go home tomorrow.' They lived in Sandy at that time, Myrna and Duane did.

That was an exciting time to have this little baby girl. Usually they would keep you five days in the hospital. The Dr. Young that was my doctor, he said, "Oh just go home, you're not sleeping." So, he let me go home in three days. I was doing well. Julia was a little black headed baby girl. (Vee gets emotional and can't talk)

Elaine: That's pretty special, getting a little girl. That's neat that it still touches you to think about when your children were born.

Lyle: That was I guess the exciting time of our lives really.

Vee: Dr. Young said his wife had always complained about him having to go out and deliver babies or go to the hospital on Sunday. He said, "Guess what? She's in here and she's had appendicitis surgery this morning." He came in and stayed in there two or three hours with us waiting for her to be born and then they took us into the delivery room and I know Lyle had to wait outside. They couldn't go in, in those days. I know when she came out, she didn't cry and he said, "She's okay! She's okay! We'll get her to crying." They were saying, "Get the suction cup." Get this and get that. It was kind of panicky for a few minutes. Then everything settled down and then it was exciting.

After Julia was born, the boys loved her. They would have to tend her a little bit for me and keep her good. But we were so excited.

Lyle: We had some gentle older horses that was about wore out that was real gentle and the boys knew how to drive cows. These boys started riding when they were three or four years old all by their-selves. We'd get on these older horses and behind a bunch of cows, why the old horse would teach them how to not pass up a cow or anything when you was driving them. They soon learned how to drive. When we'd get to the house when we come off the mountain, why they always wanted to have a race around to the granary where we unsaddled. It was several hundred yards. They'd have a race around there to see who could beat. I remember one time Brent hadn't cinched his horse, cinched the cinch up tight after all the time we'd been on the mountain so the cinch was quite loose. When he was racing around to the granary they went around a little bend, and when he went around that little bend, why he was leaning in his saddle and the saddle turned

under old Flicka's belly and he went flying off into the bar pit. He had his arms all skinned up and bleeding. He still remembers that race and when he fell off of old Flicka.

Vee: Because he'd ask his dad to tighten it up for him. He was only six. His dad said, "Well I will, I will." But as boys do they had to have their race before he got his cinch tightened up. I did bring him to Vernal the next day and had it xrayed but it wasn't broken, but it was swollen up pretty bad.

Back when Lamoyne was in second grade he broke his leg. Rex and Zella Gardner lived north of us at that time. They knew Lamoyne had been driving our tractor, steering it for them to haul hay with. They came down and wanted to know if he could up and do that for them and I let him go. Lyle was at work. When they brought him back...they'd let him ride between the wagon and the tractor.

Lyle: After they got it loaded and was going into the haystack to unload it.

Vee: They went through this little dip. Somehow he got his leg caught underneath that tongue. Zella reassured me that the leg was not broken because if it was broken he couldn't wiggle his toes and he could wiggle his toes. This was before Lyle got home, probably five o'clock or so. We got him in the house and I put him to bed. I slept with him all night and I told Lyle, "That leg's broken. I've been up all night trying to make him comfortable." I remember this same Dr. Young said, he called us brutes, he said, "Why didn't you bring him over last night?" It was his day off. It's where the Vernal Express office is, where the doctor office was at that time. He had no nurse. Lyle couldn't stand the ether so he got sick and had to go out of the room. The doctor explained to me how to hold the anesthetic over the nose to relax him so he could set his leg. I did that part and we got his leg set. That was a sad experience. It taught us a lesson that we probably shouldn't let children that small drive a tractor for someone else. But they thought, he got back on there, so we probably let him do that. Which we never did, we was pretty careful about that.

Lyle: He was pretty excited to have his first job.

Vee: While he was recuperating it was about time for school to start. I think he missed a week of school. He said that's when he really got into listening to the World Series and when he got to be a Yankee fan. Today he says, "I'm still a Yankee fan."

Lyle why don't you mention about their first 4-H steer?

Lyle: As soon as they got about eight we got them signed up for 4-H Clubs. They were in breeding beef and fat beef because we had beef cattle. We were starting to raise registered Herefords. So we picked out the best steer for them and they could fatten it and show it over here at the stock show. They done pretty good. Usually they'd get a blue ribbon. A little later on Julie

got the reserved grand champion one year. She got over a thousand dollars out of him which was a lot of money them days for a calf.

Vee: A&W Rootbeer bought it, but Marilyn Allen was working for Pudge and Beverly so her and Howard came down and bought the steer. That was exciting.

The boys always participated in 4-H with showmanship. As time went on Lyle and I learned a lot about showmanship because we'd been their 4-H leaders. Julie was really our one that got the benefit of all the boy's experiences because we could do better with her. We would take the boys on the Hereford field days and there they could judge the animals. Our boy's 4-H Club one year won first place in the judging with the junior judging teams. That was always exciting. Of course there was quite a few years difference. Brent was nearly seven when Julia was born. The boys were sort of through their 4-H end of it when Julia really got in to it. But she really was a good showmanship person. She had a lot of competition with Tamera Johnson. Somehow Tamera could seem to beat her out. She always came in it seems like second. She would be disappointed, but she did a really good job. She did a good job on the year that she got her fat steer in second place. That was very exciting.

Lyle: I remember her and Tamera put on a demonstration of how to fit and show an animal. They had the county agent moderate it. They would explain what they were doing, how to wash it and brush it dry, and how to curl it and make it really look good. They won first in the county and they got to go to the state competition and then they won first place. Out there they didn't have the actual animal to show but they had it all on, the county agent had taped it and had it in pictures. They'd show it and explain just what they were doing.

Vee: Tamera and Julia said they were going to beat these girls out from Spanish Fork because they always won first on everything. They said, "We're going to beat those girls."

Steve Cox was the county agent. He was super good with these 4-H kids. He had their best interest at heart. I can't remember after they got up there is when they put the music with it, but those girls did win first place and they were so excited. I believe they had to wait though until state fair time when they announced it. They were so, so excited about that.

Then, KSL sponsored another contest. You had to feel out all these questions and it was on cattle. Also you had to write an essay. I think Julie competed in that twice. The first time she was in the top few, but she didn't win. The next year then she won first place in the KSL contest which she won a heifer from Peterson Brothers. I don't think Lyle was in Salt Lake that time. I was out there with her. That was really exciting. He had to bring the truck out to bring the heifer home. We didn't think too much about it because we knew there was a lot of competition in the state of Utah. But she did really well with her 4-H stuff. Like I said, she benefitted from the boys experience. She got to go back to Chicago with the 4-H record book. She was on the Junior Hereford Association. She got to go to Kansas City, Missouri, which was very educational, with the line of livestock. She made friends all over with the youth in the state of Utah because they would go to different counties, the state officers would. She loved it.

Did she win two heifers or just one?

Lyle: She won that one and then the next year she won another heifer at the Hereford Association.

Vee: She and I had to go to Kamas, to pick up a heifer from the Winterton's. We borrowed Brent's truck. He had a rack on it. I don't know why I was so brave to do all these things by myself. We'd go into Kamas and pick up that heifer and we brought it home.

One year, I think it was about the last year she was in high school, or when she was a junior. She wanted to take this one heifer out there to the Fitting and Showmanship Contest. It was when we had the red truck that had the stake racks on it. We had Myrtle, our Indian placement student, with us. I had to take her out with the truck and her animal. My dad had made her a big showmanship box because they all had these really elegant showmanship boxes, big ones where they kept all their equipment in it. She got a blue ribbon. I remember Lamoyne told her, he had been out here from California, and he said, "You'll only get a red ribbon with her." She said, "I will not, I'll get a blue ribbon." She came back with a blue ribbon that year. The Heifer was a little bit touchy but she never once kicked or was out of place of all the times that we were fitting her and showing her in the show ring at the state fair in Salt Lake. But, when I got back to mothers and we had her loaded, my dad had picked us up some peaches and I was kind of up in the back pushing those peaches forward and she kicked me. I thought, 'yeah we're all through so now she's going to give me a kick.' It kind of hurt but I got over it. That was another time I was glad to get back home. Lyle seemed to send me off on these wild 'escapades' I called them without him around to fix things that may need to be fixed. Julia became a good hand with cattle and horses.

Lyle: That one time when she was back there to Kansas City to the National Junior Hereford Association, why a lot of the top breeders all over the United States that were wealthy people would make door prizes and things for the juniors to kind of encourage them. Julie won two semen certificates from one of the top bulls in the nation. I think he sold for \$400,000 for an interest in him at one time. She got two of those semen samples and we used them to breed two of our best cows. With the offspring of those, why we won some good awards.

Vee: When she was just a baby, it was really hard for me to go off and leave her with Lyle's mom in January. They had the four children and we went to Denver to the National Western. We went over there and we bought a bull. We bought this one in what they call the 'yards'. We went inside, and I'd never been to a cattle sale. He said, "Sit on your hands." The indoor arena was just filled, jammed packed with cowboy hats. I looked around and I thought, 'Oh my goodness.' I didn't even dare talk to him or even think about raising your hand because they had all these ring-men in there. I couldn't believe that they were paying like \$100,000 for a fourth of an interest. I just couldn't even fathom that kind of money. It wasn't anything for them to bid. They didn't bid like a hundred dollars at a whack, it was starting at \$20,000. They were jumping like

\$5,000 a bid. To me it was just overwhelming to go and to watch that. We ended up buying a really nice bull and made nice friends with a couple from Iowa. We bought one of their bulls. We figured that he was the bull before his time before they started getting them longer and taller. We've had a lot of fun with the cattle industry. It's been a good place to raise our kids.

Elaine: Was this when you were in the Cattleman's Association or was this after your kids were raised?

Lyle: I think I was an officer in the Uintah Cattleman's Association at that time. I was also a director on what they called the Utah Beef Improvement Association for a long time. We still participate in that.

Vee: He was also a director for the Utah Cattleman's Association.

Elaine: And then you were in the Cowbelles at the same time? Isn't that like the women's auxiliary to the Cattleman's Association?

Vee: They used to be called Cowbelles and then later on as I was more active in it, they changed it to Cattlewomen. They did change it on the national level. I belonged to the county, state, and national for a long time. Then the national became so expensive that I just dropped to state. Then when our county kind of dissolved I even quit joining the Utah Cattlewomens.

Elaine: What did the women's organization do?

Vee: They promoted the use of beef different ways and how to cook it. They mainly tried to promote the use of beef. We usually did a beef for Father's Day. They started doing it first for the first baby that was born and Father's Day. Then it kind of got out of hand so they would choose someone in the community that they wanted to honor for Father's Day and present them with a beef roast.

We did beef in the schools. We started first doing it in junior high because they would listen more to you. We did stir fry with beef. We had different cuts of beef. We had different kinds of hamburger where it was ninety five percent pure ground beef, and also some that had water added to it. We had three different patties, Marilyn Oscarson did that demonstration, then she had cooked each patty up that would fit in with that particular patty to show them that maybe the extra lean beef cost you a little more but you got more beef for your money.

We did demonstrations for school plus relief societies throughout this valley on making your own beef jerky, salami, bologna, different lunch meats out of ground beef but using certain spices in them. That was educational. I taught them how to make cheese balls by using the salami. That was very popular for three or four years. It took a lot of time but I enjoyed doing that. We also did stir fry and served it to students. They liked it.

Lyle: We used to have a real active Cattleman's Association here in the county. Duchesne County still does. Some of the Uintah ranchers have now joined Duchesne County. But, we used to have two annual events. One was the Cattleman's Banquet that we'd have in the fall. Usually it was someplace like Western Park or Rod and Gun Club. They'd have a big meal, entertainment, and a speaker from state or national or somewhere and talked about current issues. They'd have a full night and dance clear 'till midnight. In the summer time they'd have a cattleman's tour. They'd go maybe up around Diamond Mountain or Blue Mountain and look at different ranches and projects and stay over night. One or two years they went clear out on the Book Cliffs and stayed two nights, a three day tour clear out around there. We'd take sleeping bags. They'd have lots of food and really have some good time. They'd tell stories at night and it was quite interesting. We don't have near as many cattlemen in the county now and it seems like the ones that have stayed in have got bigger and a lot of them have dropped out. It's hard to keep an association going. All the old timers seem like they've had their turn serving and the young ones didn't want to pick up on it.

Vee: They'd usually have the big August, they called it August Barbecue and Convention, the county. They'd have meetings during the day and then at night. We never had a nice place like Western Park, it was either the Rod and Gun Club, which was nice at the time, but sometimes it got kind of wild. The women always prepared the big banquet for that night and we'd spend a couple days getting ready. I know we had this one coleslaw we made, because you could make it a head a couple days, in fact it was better made two or three days ahead. Then we'd get the potatoes ready for the big dutch-ovens. We'd cook those for a couple hundred people. It was a lot of work. You'd be so tired. I wouldn't have too much fun dancing. Also we hauled them sometimes to the National Guard Armory because they had a bigger facility. They got so they wouldn't let us come in. I can't remember where they had them after they quit having them at the Rod and Gun Club. But, I know it was a lot of work. They'd have sometimes even people from national come to their August Convention and Barbecue.

Elaine: Did different States sponsor the National? Did Utah have, or even Uintah County have the National Convention?

Vee: No, I can't remember if Utah's ever had the National or not. We always had our December Conventions in Salt Lake City. We usually had one day jointly with the Woolgrowers Association. That was always really interesting. We used to spend two or three days getting ready for this August Convention and it took quite a few of us.

Elaine: Who are some of the others that were in there with you?

Vee: Leola Waerman was the Cattlemen's president. Mary Nell Snow has been. I had been. Marguerite Colton way back in the old days and Marie Dodds and Lois Hall and Virginia Hall

was active in it. Not as much after I was in but before my day they were very active in it. We had Dorothy Rasmussen was president of the Utah Cattlewomen's one year. She did a great job there. She was also in the county here. Grace Chew was president for several years. She was really good.

We always helped to sponsor someone that we felt like was worthy to have a gift we wanted to promote the breeding industry here because it was kind of getting away from fat stuff. There was getting where there wasn't very many breeding animals coming in. But, the cattlemen's would always support either a first, second, third, or fourth place grand champion steer or else in breeding. We have given buckles, belts, and scrapbooks, usually made of leather. They were grateful and they were kind enough to write back thank yous. We would present it the night of the banquet. This was the Uintah County Junior Livestock Show in June.

We were busy all year. We each had a project we worked on. We had a Christmas party. The Cattlewomen sponsored their Christmas party. Most of the time we held it at Seven-Eleven Café, because they were western style. They accommodated us really well. We held it there for many years. We had a lot of fun. We played games and had a nice program. These are all just part of our life with the cattle which we enjoyed.

Elaine: Who was some of the men who were in the Cattleman's Association with you?

Vee: Hugh Colton, Maugher, Merrill Snow, Jude Hacking, Roland Merkley, Morgan Hall, Marion Hall, the Dudleys down around Randlett, the Snows from down around Jensen, Ross and Merrill and Corwin. We had the Hills, John and Harry Hill from out at Rangely, Dean Chew, Jow and John Haslem and others.

Elaine: I saw in the paper that you did team penning also. You were just an all around cowboy.

Lyle: That was more recent when we done the team penning.

Vee: After he retired. He retired in 1988.

Lyle: It's kind of a family oriented rodeo thing where you could involve your children and your grandchildren and your friends. You make up teams. They'd have probably thirty animals. There would be three of them with the same number on them. You had to go in and cut those three with the same numbers and bring them to the other end of the arena and put 'em in a pen. If any of those other thirty that you didn't bring, got past a certain line, why then you were disqualified. It was a speed event to see how fast you could get 'em in the pen. That was a lot of fun.

Vee: Sadie was his partner.

Elaine: Is that your granddaughter?

Lyle: Yeah, she lives in our ward. Me and her both won a nice buckle. We was penning. I won two buckles and she won one of them on my team. She was pretty excited. We didn't get home until about midnight. How about two a.m. I couldn't go to sleep for a couple hours after that, I was so excited.

Vee: I didn't stay and watch because it was a state affair; I didn't want to stay and watch all that, but they were sure excited.

Jamie would team pen a little bit but Sadie's the one that stuck it out.

Lyle tell them how the girls got their horses.

Lyle: They lived right up around the hill where Bartlett's live. Woody Searle lived up on the hill here. Those girls would ride these old busted out saddle horses of ours all over around up the hills and everywhere when it was a hundred degrees in the summer and below zero in the winter time. They would still go ride. One day Woody stopped here and he said, "I'd sure like to see you get them girls into some better horses." I thought he was going to try and sell me a fancy horse. I thought, 'well we had about all we could afford.' He said, "Well, if I give them girls a good horse each, would you make sure it had a home?" I said, "Oh you bet, I'd be glad to do that." He says, "Well you arrange for those girls to go up on the mountain with me next week." I think it was a Thursday or a certain date. So, I didn't tell them they was going to get a horse, I just told them to be down here to go with me on a certain day at a certain time. They got in Woody's pickup with him and his wife and was heading up the mountain and he said, "How would you girls like to have a horse of your own?" They said, "Oh, that would be so wonderful." He said, "Well that's where we're going."

He got up there and he had some grain and he called a bunch of horses in the corral. He said, "Well you girls each pick you out one out of those there." So it didn't take 'em very long to pick one out. We got them separated and into his trailer and brought 'em home. They were so excited to have their own horse. I think Jamie was probably eleven or something like that and she got her horse started pretty good. Sadie was only about eight years old and hers would kind of hump up and act like it wanted to buck. She was a little scared of it and so she didn't get hers going. Woody would keep asking us how we was doing. Jamie would ride up the hill to his place and knock on his door and say, "Come out and watch my horse." She'd ride her around and show her off. And Woody, tears would come in his eyes. He'd ask about Sadie, and I'd say, "Well, hers is just a little bit too jumpy." He said, "Well, let me take her for awhile." So he called up Rhet Jolley, Rhet was a horse trainer, and he took her down there. He said, "Rhet I want you to gentle this mare down so this little girl can ride her. We left her there for about a month."

Woody came by and picked us up and took us down there. He said, "Let's go down and try that little mare." Sadie got her saddle on her and got on her and she still kind of humped up a little, you know acting like she might be kind of frisky. Woody says, "Rhet, that ain't enough." He said, "You keep her longer and you get her gentler. We want her so this little girl can ride her and not have to be afraid." So he did. Woody didn't charge us a penny for the training and all that stuff and giving those girls those horses and everything.

Sadie got hers to going real good and they got into 4-H and Showmanship and they would do the barrel races. That's where they go up and around these barrels. She'd do pole bending and showmanship and everything. She called Woody, and she said, "Woody, they're having the 4-H finals down there." She says, "I'm going to win something, I wish you would come down and watch." So, he came down and watched. When they got all the points, you know they might get a second in one event and a third in another event and a first in one event, and then they'd average it all out. When they did, why she had the grand champion. They gave her a nice horse blanket for a prize and she would go over and give Woody a big hug and a tear would come in his eyes and he'd say, "That's all the pay I need."

So, he was really good to those two girls and got them going with these horses. Later on Sadie would do the barrel races. They have this bull riding deal down here in January. They'll buck out a bunch of bulls and then while they're getting the next bunch of bulls in the chutes ready, they'll have these girls do barrel racing. This one year Sadie entered in it and she just came and got her little horse out of the pasture and took her down there and didn't have her really trained, but she won one night and she would have won the second night if she hadn't tipped the barrel over. The third night she went to pay her entrance and they said, "Well Sadie you can't enter tonight, we got to let some of these other girls win." We was pretty proud of her. She's still got that little mare. I think she's going to have a colt this spring.

Vee: The horse is nineteen. But she's always wanted a colt out of her and never could get a colt. They're going to get one this year. But she's loved horses. Jamie never did really follow, she went to live with her mom. But, Sadie came back then to live with her dad and that's how she really got into it, because we could support her and help her and help her get her horse all ready. Sometimes her dad couldn't always do that. He did later on, but to start with Lyle and I were the ones that really worked with her.

Joy and Garth Horrocks and Cyndi were so good to her, to help her with her showmanship, because their daughter was involved.

Lyle: Shanna Whitbeck helped her a lot too.

Vee: She (Sadie) belonged to Shanna's club.

Lyle: We raised an Indian foster daughter. When I was Bishop the Church had an Indian placement program that was quite popular. What they would do was, they worked with the missionaries and when the missionaries would baptize families if they had some youngsters in the family that were, you know a lot of Indian families had big families and were poor. They'd allow those younger Indians eight to sixteen years old to come to live with members of the Church. You'd treat 'em just like one of your own family like a foster daughter. We signed up for it and we got Myrtle Yassie. She came to live with us and I remember when we went to pick her up. They'd bring a bus load of them from down at the Navaho Reservation to Provo. We went to Provo to pick her up.

Vee: She was eight years old.

Lyle: She was eight years old and been baptized a member. She didn't really know too much about the Church but she was a member. They told us that some of the Indian kids had lice in their hair. We have to kind of watch and treat for that. They had treated them but we needed to make sure they didn't hatch any eggs or come back on them. Vee would wash that poor little kids head until I thought she was going to wear her hair off.

Vee: I had to take her down and have the county health nurse, Sister Rust, check her every day.

Lyle: We had a nice bed for her but she'd been raised I think in an Indian hut and she would bring a blanket and we had a fire in the fire place quite a lot them days. She'd bring a blanket and lay right there in front of that fire place. She'd be there a sleep in the mornings and not in the bed.

Vee: Her and Julie slept in the same room, they had to share a room.

Lyle: That was more comfortable for her. She had long black hair, when she first come it was kind of matted, and she would comb that hair. She got so she was really particular about how nice she looked.

Elaine: How many years did she come and stay with you?

Lyle: Well she stayed with us several years.

Vee: Three years to start with.

Lyle: But she ended up that she graduated from Uintah High School. We offered to pay her way to let her go to BYU. They had a Lamanite program that was probably not as high of standards as the whites but they taught them about their Indian culture and things and they got credits and they could graduate. She wanted to go back down to the Indian Reservation and be with her people. They had a Polly Technical College down there. She went to that. She worked at night so she could work her way through that college. She got a good job with the Bureau of Indian Affairs down there in their computer programs. Eventually she married and had two children. The last time we saw her, her son was in Iraq, but he's home now. We haven't heard from her for about a year.

Vee: She called last fall. She was quite a hand to not contact you unless she wanted money. We've always helped her, but last fall I told her, we had decided after the last time we bailed her out, that she needed to learn how to manage better. She called last fall, and I talked to her and I

said then, "Tell your son to get a job. He needs to get a job." She was saying she was about to lose her car again. I thought after the last bale out, that we had her all set up. We had given two different times quite a bit of money for a car. We had decided we couldn't do that anymore.

Lyle: We helped her once with new glasses.

Vee: And we baled them out with their trailer over to Denver, her and her sister and two different times on a car. I don't know if this was the same car, I don't know what, and she said, "I'll pay you back." And I said, "No, keep your car payments current." I ask her what she was doing with her money and she said, "Well my dad and my son's in college." I just said, "No, we can't help you." We had a little conversation about it. I kind of felt like that sometimes they need to learn how to manage.

At that time when she was here and when she went home from high school, the church was almost handing out the Indian placement students a college education if they'd go. But we couldn't talk her into going.

She came for three years in grade school. She missed all of junior high. Then she wanted to come back during high school. I wasn't sure that I wanted to readjust again. It was really hard when she didn't come back, really, really hard, because she had become a part of our family.

Elaine: But, then she did come back?

Vee: She did come back the last three years. We really wanted her to go to BYU. But she chose not to.

Lyle: She had more difficulty with her schooling than any of our kids. We had to help her a lot with her assignments.

Vee: Lyle would tell me to be patient. So I told him one night, "It's all yours." Then he appreciated me.

Lyle: When it would come time that school was out, why then her parents would come and get her. Sometimes they would get 'em and sometimes they'd go home on the bus. One or two times her parents came for her.

Vee: They came up once for Thanksgiving, because Morrills had one of the girls and one time the Battys had one of the boys. There were at least three of their children up here. The thing that Mrytle wanted to show them the first time they came was our food storage.

Lyle: Vee's got a big room down there and she has rows of peaches and apricots and pears and jams and honey and all kinds of vegetables bottled. She wanted to take her mother and dad down there and show them that.

Vee: She learned to do the fruit in the fall when she would come back. She had her responsibilities. We did enjoy her.

We haven't talked about the boy's education.

Elaine: What were the boys involved in at school?

Vee: The boys always played football. Lamoyne, Clayton, and Brent all participated in football. Brent's love was basketball. He got to be on the JV team but he never did get to be on the main team, just the JV or sophomores.

Lyle: He was on the sophomore but then he didn't make the main team when he got to be a junior or a senior.

Vee: Then Lamoyne wrestled in junior high and high school. We didn't probably support him like we should have. We were so busy doing all these other things. We went to the tournaments and here in town but when it was past Roosevelt like into Heber and different places it seems like we were always tied up with the cattle.

Lyle: He was on one of Uintah State Champion teams.

Vee: He got his shoulder dislocated and that was always a detriment to him.

Elaine: Did he get it dislocated during wrestling?

Vee: During football, but it would always bother him during the wrestling season. We did support him down here but it seemed like to go out of town, we would go to Roosevelt, but these other places we just didn't do like we should have done with him, like they do now days. We did go to Moab for a state wrestling meet and took our family. That was a lot of fun.

Lamoyne was also a student body vice president, and so was Clayton a student body vice president of Uintah High School.

Brent, he loved basketball, so he got to play like the bantam basketball before they had Junior Jazz team. I think Clayton played a little bit in that too.

We supported them in their church basketball and in all their church activities. The boys went on to college, Lamoyne had a scholarship, and didn't Clayton have a scholarship too to BYU.

Lyle: It seems like it.

Vee: Brent went to BYU. They all three graduated from BYU. Lamoyne went on to get his masters degree from BY. He was married and had boys and went to California. He was married young. Clayton was married young. They were all married going to school at one time at BYU. It was a struggle for them. Lamoyne had two children while he was at BYU.

One time when we were out there at Christmas time before the first baby was born, he was born the first part of January. We went to church with them and it always impressed me that they didn't have that many students there at church that Sunday at testimony meeting and one of the girls stood up and bore her testimony how they didn't have any money to buy gifts but she said we got a box of oranges. My husband managed somewhere to get enough money to bring us home a box of oranges for Christmas. I think they had two or three children too. That always impressed me that there were people still so grateful for an orange, like we were grateful for an orange when we were kids growing up.

But, we enjoyed their college years. It was fun for us. They'd get us ball tickets for BYU. It seems like we had a little more time then and we could go. I don't know if we had more time, we just did it. We'd go out and enjoy the games with them. Julia graduated from Utah State University. She came home to work.

Elaine: Lyle I read that you were on the school board. What years were you on the school board?

Lyle: Yeah.

Vee: It was after you retired about 1989.

Lyle: It was when Blaine Morrill was on. Grant Drollinger was the superintendent.

Elaine: How many years did you serve?

Lyle: Three years. They also had two members of our board that was on the Uintah Basin Technical College when that was first started over in Roosevelt. Then we got to be on that and help select the supervisor for that. I saw that grow a lot and it's continued to grow over the years. A lot of the young people from our area have been able to benefit and get a better education because they could live at home and it was a lot easier for them.

Vee: He was on that to fill somebody's spot.

Lyle: It was a Gale that left the area. I was appointed to fill his term. He'd only been there just a few months.

Vee: Blaine Morrill was a very good school board member. That's how we got the high school. He was a pusher for things. He was a good pusher. I think Gene Anfinson and Gaywin Snow were both on the school board then.

Lyle: And Kay Campbell.

Vee: But Lyle was appointed to be on the vocational board. We went with the Burquists, Keith Burqist, we went to Florida with a training session with them one year. That was a real

educational opportunity for us. They went to their convention and we had a Sunday off and we got dressed up and planned on going to church but instead we ended up, here we were, us women with heels and suits on and we stopped a long the way, because we had to go quite a ways to get to a ward, but we ended going to Cyprus Gardens. I couldn't believe how they had the sculptures made of Disney characters. In the Cyprus Gardens, they had these big southern bell girls like in war time years with their big beautiful dresses. They were beautiful southern bells and they were all around these Cyprus Gardens being hostesses. We went to the Epcot Center while we were there and we went to Disney World down there and Sea World. We got to see a nice show on the water. We got to see an ice skating rink inside with dancers and different acrobatic things. It was the first week of December. All shows centered around Christmas. We were in awe many times.

The Burquist's had been a lot of places and they were the ones that was the driver for the rental car so it was great to have someone that knew how to get around and what to do and how to push your way in and out of things. The one night that we were still at the Epcot Center they had all these big different nationality homes that was built around this lake and that was really exiting. They had the big poinsettia trees that they would light up, because it was December. It was just absolutely gorgeous. They shot off the fireworks. As each one of those homes did there singing and dancing around that lake the big fireworks would go off for that house and it just continued all around it. It was very educational, the Epcot Center was.

Lyle: There was a lot of people and it was easy to get lost. You'd stop and be watching something and the rest of your group moved on you could easily get lost. This one around this lake, why each country had an exhibit or something that kind of demonstrated their culture. I think it was Tabit had belly dancers. They'd be a dancin' and a swoonin' and I told them, I said, "If you ever lose me, why you can find me here at this belly dancing exhibit."

When I was working for the USDA the government come up with a salinity control program. The Colorado River ends up in the Rio Grande River and goes into Mexico and a lot of the salt from our country was ending up down in Mexico. So the United States made a treaty that we would try and cut down on that salt going into Mexico. So, one of the deals was what they called the salinity control program and they came up with a bunch of irrigation projects like the sprinklers that you see with the big pivots. The government paid pretty good cash share for those. I was fortunate to be able to, with one guy, to work at the state office and write up a lot of the practices and things. The Secretary of Agriculture and the area directors decided we done such a good job that we should be recognized. We were invited to send somebody back to Washington D.C. to the National Agriculture Awards Center and my piers thought I was the most responsible, anyway they elected me to be the one to go back and accept the award. So, we got to go back and spend four or five days in Washington D.C.

Vee: That was May of 1982. Ruth and Nathan Allen from Roosevelt office also went.

Lyle: We got to go on some tours and go around and see a lot of the sites like the Washington Monument and the Gettysburg Battle Field. The Secretary of Agriculture's name at that time was John Black. I got to go up and he handed me the award and shook my hand for it.

Vee: He (Lyle) got the big award too. He got to keep that. Gordon Nebeker was also an ASCS director here in Utah and had the opportunity to go back to Washington DC and work in that department. He was the one that met us at the airport and showed us around at some of these places. Also there was this couple out of Colorado, he was working back there. His wife while he was back there working in the department, she was a guide there in Washington D.C. They had a recipient lady from Colorado that was back there to receive an award. She was partially handicapped in a wheel chair part of the time. We had six of us in our group that got to go back there. We got to go to all of Arlington Cemetery and Lincoln's Memorial and all those places with this guide originally from Colorado because this one lady was handicapped from Colorado and our unit got to go in with them. They took us and you never had to wait in line. You could just get in and be put right to the front. We were in the White House. It was really a neat experience the five days that we were gone.

Elaine: Even though you're tied up with ranching it sounds like you've had opportunities to do some traveling and do some fun things.

Vee: Another time Lyle went, he and this other fellow went down to Texas. I got to go with him to a training. That was not only educational for him but it was also educational for me when we could sit in on some of those classes. They would teach them how to conduct meetings. They would show you up in front of a TV and when you were speaking it showed if you were favoring your right side or your left side. Then, they would critique you afterwards and teach you how to better present yourself out in front of an audience. It was not only helpful to him but the one day that I attended it gave me a few pointers.

Lyle: One of the sessions I went down there and I was supposed to go to a crop insurance training and be able to learn all the ins and outs and then come back and train the people in Utah, the USD Employees here in Utah, about crop insurance. I remember the first instructor was a big colored guy from Alabama. He came into the class there and he had his bible under his arm. He started out and he said, "You all read the good book?" He held up his bible and he said, "Do you remember that story about David and Goliath?" Everybody had heard about that. He said, "Well you remember when..." Then he read about David went down to the stream and he picked up four pebbles when he knew Goliath was coming to do battle with him. Then he read a little bit more and told about David took his sling shot and throwed the pebble and hit Goliath in the forehead and knocked him out and he could kill him or what ever he wanted to do. He said, "Why you suppose he picked up four of them pebbles when he only needed one." Nobody knew. And he said, "Man, that for insurance." That kind of lead us up to the subject that he was going to teach us about.

We've got twenty grandkids and forty great grandkids from our humble start.

Elaine: Can we talk about this area. So, you moved here in 1962. Was it all Uintah Stake at the time or was there two stakes?

Vee: Two Stakes, Ashley and Uintah

Elaine: Did you go to church at the chapel on 500 East?

Vee: No, the Maeser Chapel when we first came here. It was called Maeser 2nd Ward.

Lyle: At first we met right at the Glines Chapel.

Vee: When we first moved here we were in Maeser 2nd Ward. We went over at the old Maeser Chapel.

Lyle: We've been in at least five different wards and two different stakes and never moved.

Vee: We moved in 1962 over here and then in June of 1963, was when they made Vernal 7th Ward. That was at the Glines Chapel on the highway. He served with Garth Batty as Bishop and Bob Williams as a counselor. Glen Allred was ward clerk. When they built the Ashley Stake Center Lyle was Bishop.

Elaine: Didn't the ward members build that building?

Vee: They helped build that building top to bottom.

Elaine: That's a lot of work. How long did it take?

Vee: Two years.

Lyle: That was when they used the members for labor and donations. Our first meeting I think started at 5 or 6 in the morning. We would get up real early. The two bishoprics would meet with the Stake president and we'd decide what work we had to do. The church had a building supervisor that was hired there. He would come and meet with us and tell us, "We want to run this wall and we want to do this much flooring." Where ever he had lined up for the coming week and we had a list of all the plumbers and electricians and carpenters and everything in the whole stake. We'd decide how many of each we needed. Then the ward bishoprics and their building supervisor would meet with us and we'd tell them, "We have got to have this many electricians and this many cement guys and plumbers or whatever." Then they'd go back to their wards and get that many people. Usually our main meetings was on Saturdays and after we got

through with all these meetings then we'd go out and go to work on whatever project you know they were doing that day. They met each week for sixty-eight weeks.

One thing I remember was that all around the building is cinder blocks. They put those cinder blocks in place and then they'd put sticks of steel rebar clear down those and then we would bucket the cement down each one of those holes until it got filled clear up. When it got filled up, why that would set and then they'd put more bricks on top of that. When we were finishing up we were clear up on big high scaffolds. They didn't have those fancy cement trucks now that come and put it all down in there. We had to do all that by hand.

The women painted all the building. I can remember seeing Vee clear up in the top of that auditorium on a big high scaffolding painting. They had kind of a sack or something over their head so paint wouldn't get in their hair.

Vee: We all had to help rub the grout from that center block. We had all ages, women, men, and children. You were assigned to go down as they finished each section. We went down and everybody helped. I claim that that's my building because it was a lot of work. I painted the furnace room. I don't remember who else was up in there with me. I wasn't afraid of heights and they built those scaffolds so I was up on that all the time. We were in the chapel and I remember Stan Allen; he was a good painter and we had him do the finishing part on the banisters. He could just slick that right off without any streaks. I was the one that wanted to varnish the Bishop's office because Lyle was Bishop. I made sure nobody got in there but me.

But, everybody was helping. Everybody was helping do paint, varnish, it's a wonder it turned out as good as it did. Sometimes we'd have to redo doors where they'd let the varnish run. We'd have to scrape that off and redo that. We had the Ralieghs, a couple who was assigned to be out here over the building. We had also missionaries that couldn't go to other types of missions that could come and work. The people of Ashley Stake really worked hard on that building.

Lyle had back surgery and I had been gone for about a week. When I came back I remember the sister supervisor, she said, "I've been waiting for you. Tomorrow we're going to finish painting the chapel part. The drop, it's streaked." She says, "I have Janet Wallis lined up. You and her will be on the west side, and I'll be on the east side and we'll start in the middle." I don't know if you noticed the drop when you've been in there. There's a drop that kind of comes down. She said, "We will meet in on the south side and there will be no lines left where we started and where we ended." It took us all day to do that. That was quite an experience.

Lyle: I forget how many thousands or hundred thousands of dollars we had to raise for the members share. Each ward had a building clerk. They'd keep track of everybody's hours, all the time that they'd worked all during the construction. When we got through with the project I'm sure it built a lot of testimonies about buildings. When we got all the church credit for all of our hours and we turned all of the money we had collected in, why we had enough money left over to build that seminary building that's right by the junior high school. So we got that out of the deal. We had 27,500 hours of labor that was donated by members of the Ashley Stake. Some

days there were as many as fifty or sixty men at the site. I know we had quite a lot of inactive and non-member people in our ward. We decided we were going to make them an assessment. We had committees that would go around and meet with every family and tell them what their assessment was and explain what it would be used for and everything. I remember we had Cliff McCoy and he was not a member. Allen Bennion, his wife was a member and Don Showalter was quite well to do and he was a member but his wife was Catholic and they never did come. There was quite a few like that and a lot of people would say, "You're just wasting your time with people like that." But every one of them would say, "Well, I need a place to have my funeral in, count me in. How much do you need?" Some of them guys would write us out a check right on the spot for the full amount.

Elaine: So you were Ashley Stake after that building was built?

Vee: We were Ashley Stake before that but we met over in the Third Ward Chapel. They made Ashley Stake before we moved over here. I was called to be the Stake Primary President in 1962.

Elaine: You were still pretty young with children.

Vee: Too young. I didn't know anything. I felt so dumb. I was painting our home in here when the Stake President, President Wallis and President Fox came up. I thought, 'What do they want?' They sat there on that hearth and I'd been painting and I had paint all over my clothes when they called me to be the Stake Primary President. I was only thirty-one or thirty-two, along in there. I had some good help. I did it for a few years.

We moved here in 1962. This building (Ashley Stake Center) was dedicated in March 26, 1967. We had been over here five years before that Stake had been built, but we held our Stake meetings over in the Third Ward Chapel.

Elaine: I had just assumed that the Ashley Stake was created at the time that the Ashley Stake Center was built.

Vee: It was made a year or two before we moved over here.

Elaine: I guess just like now there's that new Stake, but they don't have enough Stake buildings yet for every Stake to meet.

Vee: I understand they changed the name of Ashley Stake Center, it is now the Vernal Utah Stake Center. It will never be anything but Ashley Stake Center to me.

Elaine: So when did this section become part of Maeser Stake?

Lyle: After Ashley Stake grew and we must have had ten wards and a branch. They decided we were getting too big for a Stake so after I was released from the Bishopric, I went on the High Council. They have a big table where the Stake President sits up to the head and then the High Councilmen sit around that. You start when you're first called a High Council, you sit on the bottom chair. When anybody's released you gradually move around so that the one with the most senior time is called the Senior High Councilman. When it came time to get a new Stake President, Ezra Taft Benson came out here. He was an apostle when the new Stake President was called. They would interview the previous Councilors and the High Councilman and the Bishops and some of the Elder's Presidents and decide who was going to be the new Stake President. They would have them all lined up and you'd go in and be interviewed by him. He was about as close to you as if I was sitting on this table and your knees would be touching. He'd look you in the eyes and you felt like he could see clear through you. I was working for the Department of Agriculture and he'd been Secretary of Agriculture under President Eisenhower's administration. He could tell you all kinds of details that was really on the county level about it because he was really knowledgeable. That was an experience to meet with him all alone in an office.

I remember I was right behind Jack Seitz and Jack was the one that was eventually called to be the Stake President. I remember when I was going in Jack was coming out and he shook my hand about three times in that clerk's office before I could get in there. I thought, 'Boy if Jack's that nervous, this must be traumatizing.' I could see why, because he must have got some inclination while he was in there. One thing that you done, you wrote on a piece of paper two names that you thought would be a good Stake President. I think I wrote the two that ended up being the counselors.

Later I was on the High Council when the General Authority came out to divide the Stakes. I was on there long enough to go clear around that table and be the Senior High Councilman in two different Stakes. That's a lot of sitting around the table and a lot of talks to give.

Elaine: So when they made the Maeser Stake is that when this area became a part of the Maeser Stake or was it still part of Ashley?

Lyle: Venil Johnson was our first Stake President in the Maeser Stake.

Elaine: That's when you became Ashley Ward in the Maeser Stake?

Vee: What they did before this building up here was being built, they moved us out of Seventh Ward into Ashley Ward. It went up around, it even took in to the creek over on 2500 West. Venil Johnson, they were in Ashley Ward for awhile.

Lyle: And clear down across Highway 40.

Vee: That was Seventh Ward. Seventh Ward was really strung out when they made Vernal Seventh Ward that first year we was over here.

Hugh B. Brown was the one that came out and dedicated the Ashley Stake Center. Bishop Lyle C. Taylor had to give a talk and Dee Anderson. When Dee left that's when I think Jack Seitz was called to be Bishop.

Lyle: You've heard of Hugh B. Brown haven't you?

Elaine: I think so.

Lyle: He was an apostle. Then he was a member of the First Presidency. I remember when he came in. He was late getting there.

Vee: He came in on Frontier Airlines and it was late.

Lyle: We'd been singing songs, the congregation, to wait and then they said he was pulling in the parking lot. I remember he came in and he was quite feeble then and he had one guy on each arm and he kind of slowly came up the isle. I thought, 'He won't be able to speak very long.' I think he talked for over an hour. Everybody was just hoping the time would slow up so they could get to hear the rest of what he had to say. As he came in we were singing "We Thank Thee O' God for a Prophet."

Vee: I think I was Ward Primary President three different times, twice in Lapoint and once in Vernal Seventh Ward, after I'd been in the Stake. I went back and taught the Guide Patrol Boys, which was my love by then because I felt like a second class scout, I learned how to do the things that second class scouts do which helped me later on when I was called to be the Stake Young Women's President. It was very time consuming.

This Ashley-Maeser, 2nd Ward Chapel was dedicated on October 21, 1973, that wasn't very long from 1967, six years. I felt really bad. I didn't want to be changed to Ashley Ward. We had pioneered Vernal 7th Ward. We'd pioneered getting the building built. It was so nice to go in there when I was called to be the Stake Young Women's President to be able to go in that big beautiful building. We'd have the different conferences in the summer time with the different Stakes. It was a very spiritual experience.

I was very disappointed when they dedicated our new building over here on North Vernal Avenue that they didn't have programs. I went back and dug these two (programs from Ashley Stake Center and Ashley-Maeser Chapel) out to see how long it had been. We have been in this building since 1973. We're going on thirty seven years.

You have different types of experiences both with the church that helps you grow and also in the community. Lyle's been a lot more involved in community affairs than I have. He's been on water boards and a lot of this has come about by his ASCS, the county office and then the State.

Lyle: I was the area director.

Vee: That allowed us to have more experiences with the people from the state of Utah. We've had lots of good experiences both community wise and mine's more church wise because I felt like I never had time to belong to clubs. I supported the cattlemen's but that was with our business.

I have some dates on some of the awards that he has been given. In 1981, Lyle received the Seed Stock Producer Cattleman's Award. That same year we had a grand champion yearling bull at the State Fair. Lyle and Sam Raby out of Price bought this calf from Idaho. They had somebody else take care of him and show him.

Lyle: The bull's name was Ruchus.

Vee: He was a grand champion yearling bull and then they also took him to California and into Idaho. We became good friends with the Raby's from Price. We still have one cow out of this Ruchus Bull. He also won Grand Champion in Idaho.

Lyle retired in May of 1988. They had a fun retirement party for him down at the Western Plaza.

Lyle: We used to have to go to quite a few trips to Provo and Salt Lake and Price to learn about new programs. We'd usually tell stories. I got telling about when I was a little boy that my grandma raised a lot of geese and then she plucked the soft down on their bellies and breasts and all that and make pillows out of them. She'd sell pillows and make her little spending money. Then she gave each one of her children and grandchildren a set of pillows for their wedding.

Vee: We still have ours.

Lyle: She had a herd of geese and they'd run them into the corral into a pen where they couldn't get out. They'd grab a hold on them and hang them up by their feet. Grandma and usually my mother or aunts would help her pick this down all off from them. It was my job to, Grandma would make a plug out of a rag, and I'd have to hold that in their bum hole so they couldn't mess on the down while they were pickin them. That's what they'd do if you didn't hold that plug. These girls I worked with, they thought that was pretty good and they kind of give me a knick name over that.

When I retired I guess they were still thinking about that, anyway they gave me three little...It was a box there and I thought it was kind of moving a little bit. When I opened it up, why it had three of those little goslings in it. We didn't keep them around too long.

Vee: The kids had fun with them out here in the ditch. It was open at that time. The grandkids had fun with them.

I had gotten the oldest hat that he had which is ugly looking and worn out. It always curled on the sides and it was worn out on the top. The office girls, Deane McCurdy and Mary Smuin wanted me to bring that old hat. They had it in a brand new box. They gave him this as an award from the employees of the State of Utah. They collected enough money that he could go buy him a new Stetson hat, but inside was this old hat. When he opened up the box here was the old hat, he couldn't figure out how they got that old hat. I said, "Well, it's been in the garbage more than once and you'd go pull it out." They like to pull tricks and it was a fun retirement that they had. They had guys from the State Office out here and some of Lyle's friends that he had worked close with.

He's had a lot of good experiences. He would emcee some of their programs and have State conventions with his job.

We were having a bull sale and we had bulls in the sale over there at Ballard. Lyle was out to the convention training session. He came home one night and we went to the sale the next day and was supposed to be back out there to emcee this program that night at 6:00. It was always my lot to make sure his clothes were always packed and ready to go. We got out there and he got all dressed to go and he had no tie. Here it was about ten minutes before starting time. It was just hilarious to watch him meeting different guys in the hall that were on the same floor as us from the State. He'd say, "Let me see if your tie will match." Pretty soon he came up with a tie that would match his suit. We got down there to the convention center in the nick of time. It was serious at the time but it turned out to be really funny to watch him trying to find a tie. We had a lot of fun times like that with his job. A lot of good experiences and met lots of wonderful people.

Lyle: Another time we were out to one of those meetings and they were having a horse sale that night. I wanted to go to that horse sale. There was a guy I knew that had a black horse in there. I knew he would be good if he broke him. I really wanted him so I told Vee that I was going to bid on him. I think we had a grandson with us sitting between me and her.

Vee: We had Seth with us.

Lyle: I bid him up what I thought you know was a good price for him and then I decided I could not afford any more so I quit bidding. I was just kind of watching to see who else was bidding in the sale. Vee was sitting over there and she started bidding after I quit and so she bought this horse for her but I had to pay for it.

Vee: Well I knew he really wanted that horse. I just decided I know how to bid, I'd been to a lot of auctions with him. I think I bid twice before he knew what I was doing. Everybody in there to the auction was really coming uncorked then. This other guy was bidding against me and it was just back and forth. Pretty soon he gave up.

That horse has helped him win that buckle. He always said it was my horse but he always rode him. He had me ride another horse.

Life is full of experiences.

Lyle: The rodeo committee selects the legendary cowboy and they called me and said I'd been selected. I said, "Oh, I'm still working on my legend, I'm not really worthy yet." They said, "Well, you better take it." He said, "Last year we had two guys that were tied to be legendary cowboy." And they said, "Beings it's a tie we'll give it to one this year and to the other one next year." They said by the time next year came around the guy who they figured on being it, was dead so he says, "You better take it while you got a chance." So I did and I really enjoyed it. They gave you a free pass to the rodeo for the rest of your life. I still take advantage of that.

Vee: I get in on it too. It was really fun to be that with Garth and Joye Horrocks as the Grand Marshalls. It was an exceptionally fun time to be with them. They were always so considerate of us. Joye couldn't ride a horse then. We had thought, 'Okay I'll get me a horse to ride, and I'll ride in with Lyle too.' I kind of got to share in all of his excitement. But, Joye wasn't able to ride so we rode in the back of the buggy. That was a really, really neat experience.

That same year the bank gave us one of the original bricks from the Zion's Bank of Vernal. We were one of the ten that's had a banking account with the Bank of Vernal the longest.

Lyle: We were the fourth oldest account. The only ones ahead of us was Don Showalter and he'd been a director at the bank and Nick Meagher's wife and some of those that was connected with the bank and Virginia Houston and Coltharps. So we thought that was pretty good.

Vee: We thought we couldn't possibly have anymore awards coming and then in July 2008, Lyle was chosen to come to Ogden to the National Day of the American Cowboy. He represented Uintah County. You had a nice little write up and we have a nice program. That was really a neat experience because it was in Ogden. You could invite who ever you wanted to come to the banquet. We had one table with just our family around it, Julie and Michael and the boys, and Brent and Dawn came and they had some of their grandchildren. I thought, 'Oh my goodness, these kids won't be good during this banquet.' But, they were and they were like angels at the rodeo. They showed every county that had a representative that was there on the big screen at the rodeo. They had the big screen up and showed pictures of each person and announced their name and where they were from. They received a nice award.

Then in the fall a year ago, December 2008, he received the Ranchers Legacy Award from Utah Cattlemen's. They gave three out. He was from this eastern part of Utah and there was one from the northern part and one from the southern part. That was really a nice surprise and nice award. Lamoyne and Shelly came and Brent and Dawn came and Julie and Michael came for that.

Lyle: A few years ago Vernal Chamber of Commerce gave an award.

Vee: He got the Chamber of Commerce Award for Agriculture.

Then Julia gave us a nice award when she got through with 4-H in 1980.

We have lots of cattle stories that happened.

When Lyle used to work over here and he would call me up and he would say, "Have the horses saddled and ready to go on the mountain. We have to go up and check some cattle." He said, "I know I had a sick one up there." This was north of the ranch up on Lake Mountain. I had them caught and we took off. This was like 5:00 or 5:30 at night. I had to ride fast to keep up with Lyle. We would usually go on a fast trot or gallop. We got back on top and we were hunting all over for this sick calf. Pretty soon he said, "I guess we better head home; it's getting dark."

Before we even got off from around the lake up there it was dark, and it got darker and darker and darker as we came down off of that one steep side hill. He finally decided he better get off and lead his horse. He said, "You just let your horse follow." He said, "If your horse stops, we've hit the boundary line between the forest and the next ranch below the forest service." I've never been out at night when it has been pitch, pitch, black as it was that night. I was so scared because we were trying to wind our way down over that steep mountain side. I was really happy when we finally got to the gate. Lyle would say, "Don't follow too close, but just close enough." I know once I got off and I thought I can't walk down this steep bumpy side hill so I crawled back on the horse.

We finally got to the forest line. I was so glad because then we could hit a road that we could follow on down to the ranch which was another mile or two. I was so glad to see, I thought it was black cows, but it wasn't, it was black cedars. They looked so black. Then, we got out in the open and you could see where you were really going the rest of the way home. But it was a pitch black, black night. I compared that to the blackness when the Savior was going to come to the Nephi people. It was black, oh it was black, it was frightening. So the next night we had to go again. We loaded up our horses and went in the truck around to the Mosby Canyon side. I said, "I'll only go help you if we're down off of this steep side hill before dark." So, when it started getting dark, I don't think we found the calf that night either, but we worked our way down to where it was safe. I always envisioned myself going head over heels with the horse right behind me or on top of me after dark.

We would pick and choose where we wanted to go when we were on the mountain. Then, another time, lots of times, he sent me and Julie to start some cattle up Dry Fork because the boys were up at the ranch. They were supposed to be down to help us move the cattle up so Lyle just left Julie and I heading up Dry Fork alone with the cattle. We had somebody come barreling down around one of those sides and ran into the cattle herd and crippled a bull and calf. We had two or three that was hurt. It seems like we waited for ever until word got down to Lyle because he was here at the office to come up and help us. He took care of that and Julie and I just kept going with the cattle until the boys came down to meet us.

We had quite a few experiences like that.

Then another time we went with Joann and Ken Huber. We were supposed to round cattle up so we ran up to the Dry Fork. We had cattle over there that year. We were supposed to round them up at Charley's Park and push them way back to high country. We did pretty good on that. Lyle dumped us out and he came back to work and we took off to help Huber's crew round up

their cattle and ours and push them back to high country. We were back there waiting for Joann to come with the big truck and it had stalled. I think you could put six horses in that big truck of theirs. She was trying to get a ride up the canyon with some forest service personnel. They told her, no she couldn't ride, because she was a civilian. She was trying to explain her circumstances to them and they wouldn't listen to her. She got really upset and cussed the heck out of them and finally they let her get in and came back up there and told Ken what had happened to the truck. I think then he rode his horse on back down, maybe we all rode, but that was quite a day. He finally got his truck started and we loaded the horses up and came on down that night.

Elaine: You were involved with the cattle as much as Lyle was. You were the rancher's wife and you did it well.

Lyle: One time it was kind of late in the year and it had snowed and we found out we still had some cattle way back up there that had got lost and didn't come out. In the meantime I had been elk hunting and I killed an elk way up in there. I packed what I could on my saddle horse. I think I got the hind quarters and the horns, which I wanted most, and brought that out. I tied my lariat on the rest of it and pulled it way up in a pine tree. I knew it would just freeze and stay good.

When we went after these cows our neighbors went with us and I talked Vee into going and we led a pack horse to get that elk. When we found the cows, why we had to take them down in a steep canyon and back up. I told Vee, "Well I'll help you get the elk on the pack horse and then you can go back around on the Lake Mountain and stay kind of on the level." We got the cows over there where we were supposed to meet Vee and she didn't show up. We waited quite awhile and I was just getting ready to go look for her and here she come. We all had big sheep skin, the warmest coats we had and everything on. I accused her of getting lost but she said she wasn't lost.

Vee: I took a different trail because it wasn't as steep.

Lyle: When we were coming down past the Thorough Bred Ranch we finally got back on the highway. This pickup went by and I kind of slowed down. Then they stopped and backed up. It was Ralph and Polly (Walker). Ralph says, "Do I recognize you guys?" He said, "I thought that was Lewis and Clark." Because we had all our sheep skins clothes on. It was really cold, but we were pretty comfortable. We really didn't get froze did we?

Vee: I don't know, I was warm. More than once he'd have me....

Lyle: Anyway, we got these stray cows and here we was coming with this elk on our pack horse. They was pretty impressed to see us up there looking like a couple of frontiersman.

Vee: He used to have me a lot of times pull the pack horse a long when we were moving cows. We had to have a pack horse that had salt in it when we needed salt to be taken somewhere. We

couldn't always get to the places with a pickup. More than once I'd have to get out and readjust that pack saddle and then get back on. That wasn't one of my happiest times.

Lyle: When we would first take our cattle up there was when our kids were only two or three years old and not old enough to ride, why we'd put our salt in and then we would put a pillow, they we'd put our kids right in the panyard.

Vee: We've had a lot of cattle rides. I think the first time I ever went up on the Dry Fork side, oh that was a steep old canyon. I'd like to go back to just look at it again. To push cattle up the Dry Fork side and back up over into those long big ole deep canyons. It was hard pushing. I know Joann Huber, she could drive a truck anywhere. She always had more food in the back of that pickup for you to eat. She'd say, "I'll get the food." I usually had our own lunches, but she had enough for us and them too. We've been on some rough rides.

Elaine: I love your cattle experiences.

Vee: Each of our boys has been involved in their growing up years, even after they were married when they could. They would come and help. Brent and Dawn live up here. They built a home up here and he helped us after he came back from college on the side line from his regular job. He was good help.

There was several times when Lyle took this other job and was gone for sometimes two to four days at a whack. He had me feeding the cattle that were in the corrals, sometimes fifty head. The one year he had Battys feeding one bunch we had here. He had Quentin Johnson feeding another bunch up around the hill in another pasture. But, he left me with a lot of responsibility and that's why I'm worn out.

We've had a lot of fun along the way. We've been to trips to Montana, Idaho and Colorado.

Lyle: When Woody Searle and his first wife, Birdie, were split up and getting their divorce, Woody had to share everything with her. That was pretty hard for him because he was worth millions. They were trying to set a value on the horses. So, he just loaded some up and took them up to the auction. That's when they had the auction right up here as you come into the valley. He would just run them through there and didn't advertise them or no papers or anything and hoping they'd go cheap so he could establish a value for her half. I found out about it and I went up there. Julie had been good friends with the McNeil girls. They always had fancy horses. She just had an old plug. She'd always wanted a better one so I bought this little mare and we named her old Birdie after Woody's wife. Julie was feeding her a little bit too much grain and I was trying to ride her once in awhile. I was riding her right out here in the back of the house one night. I hollered for Vee and Julie to come and look. I was doing figure eights and she was going good. She didn't turn around just right and I reached down and spurred a little on the shoulder, and boy she took to bucking. She bucked right up along the barbed wire fence. I was really grabbing leather and hanging on because I didn't want to get bucked off right on that fence. I finally got

her stopped and I broke the throat latch. I got off and fixed that and I was feeling kind of sore but I went a head and rode her back down here and done my chores. I came in and set down and took a little snooze. When I came to I decided well I better go get in bed. I just stood up and my crotch pained so bad that I just fainted and fell over on the floor somewhere.

Vee: It was in the kitchen.

I called Brent. He was down to Dawn's. It was before he was married. He called the ambulance. The ambulance got up here before he started coming to, so you know how long he was out. He was so upset at me for calling the ambulance. Arden Hacking came with them. He said, "Taylor, lay over here and get on this. You're not going anywhere; you can't walk."

He said, "I'm not going to the hospital." I said, "Yeah you are." I always worried about his back breaking again or something. His doctor had told him he needed to be careful after he had that first back surgery.

We got him down there and he still couldn't get up. He was down there for a couple of days and nights. They ice packed him.

Lyle: There wasn't too much they could do, only bed rest and take it easy. That was kind of hard because it was a busy time of year. We didn't do much more with that little mare, but the next spring we got her broke and going good so Julie could finally ride her. She was a real good rope horse.

One time there was a guy that came here and bought a bull and he tied him in an old rickety rack and he headed down the road and he got down here by where Lorne and Iris Hacking lives and he broke the rope and got loose. He jumped out of that old rickety truck and went down through the Russian Olives there. He came back up here and wondered what we could do. I said, "Well, I've got a pretty good horse here, let's go see if we can get him out of those Russian Olives." We went down there and he came out in an opening there and I took to him and roped him. He probably weighed about fifteen hundred pounds and that little 'Birdie', she only weighed about a thousand pounds. She just got down on her hind haunches and slid. I was just getting into them thick Russian Olives and they're sticky. She finally got the bull stopped and I got him turned around and I was bringing him up the road here, and when he went the right direction I'd let him go as fast as he would and if he'd try to go the wrong way I'd stop and getting him going right. Woody come a long about then. Instead of going on up the road he just followed along and watched me bring that big bull on that little mare home and get him in the corral. That guy went and got his rack all fixed up and came back the next morning and got him.

Woody came back down here the next day and he said, "I got to have that little mare you was riding." He says, "I'll trade you two geldings." Usually geldings are worth more than a mare. I said, "Well let's go look at em." So he went and showed me the ones. Anyway I ended up taking one of them and trading him because he wanted her for a brood mare. He raised some high dollar colts out of her.

This horse he sold (traded) me, I named him Woody. Me and my nephew was up there on the mountain and we was building a log fence that was falling down. We were working all day up there and our horses were getting kind of tired and hungry. As we came back down the mountain, why there was a spring there that the water wasn't filling the trough up. I told my nephew, I said, "Drive this cow right here that's ----- over where we saw that bull and I'll fix this water and you come back." While he was doing this, this Woody horse, I had long reins that stuck out and drug behind his hind feet. He decided he was going to go for home. I couldn't run and get in head of him so I just run and got behind and put my foot on those reins. I know he thought it was the pack horse that I've been leading, behind him that had been stepping on his heels. He would kind of kick up at her. He thought it was that other horse and he just up with his feet and plastered me like that. He just put a shoe mark right on both breasts and you could see it for about a month. It just knocked me down on the ground. The next thing I could remember my I was kind of fluttering around up here. My soul left my body and I was looking down at my body. It was just laying there on the ground and my mouth was twisted open and crooked. I was just laying there lifeless and it seemed like I had the option to either go on or go back to my body. I thought about my wife and kids I wanted to go back and live. The next thing I could remember I was just taking great big deep breaths. My nephew came back about that time. He thought I was putting on an act for him. He said, "Okay come on, you're not fooling me. Get up and let's go." His name was Steven Collins.

Vee: He didn't even have a driver's license.

Lyle: He was about twelve or thirteen, or fourteen maybe. I finally told him what was happening. I just felt like my whole chest was just crushed like jello. I tried to walk and lead my horse. I could tell I couldn't do that. I said, "You got to get on this one and I'll ride the old gentle one." So I got on him and it was probably about three miles to our truck or down to our Deep Creek Ranch. I kept feeling like I was going to faint. I told him, "If I faint you go for help." So we finally got down in the truck. He didn't have a driver's license or nothing. I told him that I knew he knew how to drive. I said, "Well pull the saddles off the horses and we'll get in and you drive." I said, "Just take me to the hospital and if I faint or pass out you just keep going." He said, "Okay, I will." He's a pretty plucky kid.

Vee: You came to the house first.

Lyle: We ended up down there and they xrayed me and they said, "Well, you're kind of broke up but there's nothing we can do only tape you up and you just got to take it easy and rest for quite a while." That's one of my experiences.

Vee: Lyle tell about the experience up in Dry Fork Canyon.

Lyle: One year I bought a horse and called him Mack. We still got him. He was kind of limber and I was just getting him broke good then.

Vee: He bought him out of a big sale up in Logan.

Lyle: That fall we had a bull that had real bad hoof rot and they'd go off by themselves and hide up. Some of the kids that were helping us with round up saw him, but they didn't want to mess and be way behind. They left him and told me where he was. In a few days I went back up there and I could find his track but I couldn't find the bull. I went two or three times. It was up in back of Massey's Ranch, up in there. I went back two or three times and I could tell where he'd been but I couldn't find him. So I thought, 'Well I'll probably have to wait until the first snow and then I'll go get him.' So when it snowed, I took my truck and I went to where you start up Brownies Canyon, the Red Cloud Loop. I left my truck there and left the gate open and unloaded my horse. I went up and when I crossed the creek that was the year when the Mosby canal broke and they had all that sand and flooding in Dry Fork and the water was muddy. I found the bull's tracks and followed him a ways and found him all right. When I went across the creek there was quite a lot of water in it. There was freezing ice. The ice was froze out about two feet. In the center there was just chunks of ice floating. I went back and forth a couple of times where I figured I would be crossing with that bull and broke the ice and then went on up and found him. I got him back down to where the trail crossed but he wouldn't go across that ice and through that cold water. I beat on him and tried to do everything I could. Finally I said, 'Well the only way I'll get him over there is to drag him.' He was probably an 1800 pound bull and I was riding about a 1000 to 1100 pound horse. I got him pulled down into the edge of the creek and then I was trying to get clear across on the other side but my rope wasn't long enough to reach where I could get on solid ground. I was still in the creek. I had my dally on him and I was trying to drag him. My horse kind of slipped and tipped me over right over in that creek and I was pinned underneath the horse. I thought, 'He's going to try to get up in a minute and I'd better be all ready to get out of the way so I don't get tromped or anything.' But, he didn't ever struggle to try and get up. He would kind of raise his head up but he wouldn't try to get up. I thought, 'Well, he's probably got a broken leg.' Them big chunks of ice floatin' by me and one of my legs was underneath the horse and the other one on top. When you're in a situation like that and you know nobody knows where you're at, why a lot of things go through your mind about your life history. I could see the Vernal Express headlines that the Search and Rescue Find Frozen Rancher, and all kinds of things like that. I decided the only one that could help me or knew where I was at was our Heavenly Father. I couldn't kneel down or anything, but I prayed the best I could. I started to get warm even though that ice was all around me and cold water. I thought, 'I'm getting hypothermia and it won't be long now.' But I think it was the Lord that was warming me. I had this one leg underneath the horse in the stirrup and the other leg was on top of the horse was laying here. I was laying downstream from him right in that creek. I had the feeling to start pushing the horse. He was about an 1100 pound horse. I don't think I had much of a chance of pushing him off from me but I kept pushing. I could feel I was making a little progress. I just

kept pushing and pushing. Finally I got this leg that was underneath the horse come out of the boot. It left the boot right in the stirrup and I kept pushing on him and finally got out. There I was right out in the stream with my bare foot and big chunks of ice floating around. Then I got a stick and hit him and made him get up. I got him over to the side and tied him to a bush. I was wet then; I was just walking back and forth through the creek. My boots were full of ice water. My pants were all wet and freezing to ice. I tied that bull, the lariat that was on him to a rock over there and he couldn't go back and the only way he could go was on across. I got over there and took a club and beat on him. Finally he went on across. I hurried and got my boot back on and got on my horse and got the end of that rope and when he went the right way I'd let him go on. If he wouldn't go right I'd head him. He went right down and the trailer door was open. He jumped up in the trailer. I slammed the door shut on the front compartment and my horse was ready to jump in the back. I got my truck going and turned the heater up on high. By the time I got here to Vernal, why my teeth were chattering. I felt pretty lucky to get out of that predicament in life.

Vee: I think that nephew, Steven Colins was here that afternoon. He'd come to talk to you about hunting or something. He said, "Oh Lyle's been on another wild goose chase huh?" We figured he about an accident waiting to happen.

Elaine: That ranching is pretty dangerous.

Vee: See his finger. That was another time.

Lyle: I shot hydraulic oil through that finger from a hose that broke one time. I had to go to Salt Lake to have that operated on. They did a skin graph. They graphed it off of this finger and over on this one to make that a little better.

Vee: I thought I would never get him to Salt Lake alive. Brent said he was lucky because usually when that hydraulic oil hits a finger like out to the power plant he said they just life-flight them in to Salt Lake. It's deadly, instant blood poisoning.

Lyle: Dr. Stringham here in Vernal didn't seem to know. The first day I went in he just bandaged it up and sent me home. The next morning I had a big dark lump on my arm and a black streak clear down my arm. I was waiting down there in his office and he just called hand care center in Salt Lake and said he was sending them a patient.

Vee: They never gave him anything to deaden him with and by the time I got to Roosevelt I was beside myself trying to drive, him in all this pain. They wouldn't give you anything there. So, we just went ahead and went on into Salt Lake. I was glad to get there. He was so sick. We stayed to his sisters that night, Myrna Richens.

Elaine: Did all this happen in your later years?

Lyle: Yeah!

Elaine: I think it's time to stay home now.

Vee: Two of Lamoyne's boys were up here from California that summer helping. They were in Dry Fork, up on the Morgan Hall place doing hay that year. That's the same year the forest fire was over in the Dry Fork Canyon where we had the cattle up by the Massey Ranch. I think we were up there when that happened. Some kids had built a fire and it came down over those red mountains up there and got down into that hay field by the Dry Fork Cemetery and burned down the hay that the boys had put up.

Elaine: Ranching can be very hard it seems.

Vee: Yeah, but also rewarding and we're still alive.

Elaine: Out of all your experiences in life what is your fondest memory?

Lyle: Mine is having a close family. Some of our kids and grandkids come clear from California and Tucson, Arizona, to go on a cattle drive with us and love every minute of it. Probably all the good times we've had as a family is a result of our cattle business and them all wanting to help. They'll come when we have branding and calving to help us. I think it's kind of the legacy of the family and our cattle operation. That's my favorite.

Vee: I think also the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been a great influence in making the choices that we have made and the accomplishments. I think we started off right by getting married in the Salt Lake Temple and being guided to help make good choices and to have our children. Julia was our great blessing because we didn't think we would be able to have any more children so she was our one of our greatest blessings along with our boys. Then comes your grandchildren. Another great blessing we had was when she was cured of cancer. She's in remission.

Elaine: Family is our greatest blessings. Those are fond memories when you can do things together.

Vee: He only married me because I could milk cows.

Lyle: Our daughter went through a cancer episode and we know that our Heavenly Father really blessed us then. She wanted me to come to Cedar City and give her a Father's Blessing. I had some experiences during that time. That was a choice spiritual experience. She has to still go for her checkups every six months but it looks like she's got it licked.

Vee: I think too, that you can see that your children have made good choices and their families are happy. You have your trials a long the way and that's part of life. But our families, our parents, our good times we've had at family reunions and we've had a good life.

Elaine: What kind of legacy have you created? I think you have created a legacy through your being a member of the church and cattle business. That's become a part of their life as well.

Lyle: Our son and our grandson are still in it and keep it going for the rest of the family even though they know they can't make as much money as they could if they'd go get them a job down town or in the oil field or something.

Vee: There's a satisfaction on working with the land that you get no where else. To see crops grow and to plant a garden and raise it. To see your little great grandchildren like to be a part of that. To think about the earth and how it was created and then you look at what you can grow by planting seeds both with family and with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by trying to be a good example and showing all your family members love and kindness.

Lyle: When you're in agriculture you know you're creating new wealth, natural resources, that's hasn't been created before. When you can make two blades of grass grow where only one was growing before or maybe better alfalfa that produces twice as much and then you turn around and feed it to your animals and make food for a lot of other people.

Vee: I did have a few hobbies besides cattle. I always wanted to have pretty flower gardens because as a girl growing up we never had that. We hardly ever had a lawn so when we moved over here, that's the one thing we had is our beautiful soil. The last two or three years I've let my iris' which I just dearly love kind of go to grass and weeds. But I have enjoyed over the years trying to beautify our yard and make it a place of enjoyment for others to come and to enjoy and to share.

I liked to sew too back in my younger years.

Lyle: When you get our age then you start wondering how the ends going to come.

Vee: That's why I'm trying to organize my family history.

Elaine: You've had some good experiences to leave a legacy of your lives to your family.

